

U.S. Ser. No. 10/757,170

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A filtration system for filtering waste of an animal engaged with an animal support means, the system comprising:
a generally horizontal receptacle including an edge and defining a cavity configured to permit passage therethrough of a liquid and the waste, the receptacle configured to receive the liquid and waste into the cavity and to discharge over the edge the liquid and the waste from the cavity;
a filtration unit associated with the receptacle for receiving the liquid and waste from the cavity and for filtering the waste from the liquid; and
a pump for delivering the liquid from the filtration unit to the receptacle to permit circulation of the liquid.
2. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, further comprising a hopper associated with the receptacle and configured to permit draining of the liquid.
3. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the receptacle is a tray.
4. (original) The filtration system of claim 3, wherein the tray comprises three raised sides and an edge defining a void.
5. (original) The filtration system of claim 4, wherein the tray is configured to slope towards the edge defining the void.
6. (original) The filtration system of claim 5, wherein the slope of the tray is adjusted with screws associated with the tray.
7. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the liquid flows continuously through the cavity.
8. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the liquid is water.
9. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the animal support means is selected from the group consisting of bird stands, food cups, perches, ladders, swings, toys, and supports.
10. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the filtration unit comprises:
a permeable screen;
a porous filter layer; and
a carbon filter.

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11. (original) The filtration system of claim 10, further comprising a biological media.
12. (original) The filtration system of claim 11, wherein the biological media comprises bacteria.
13. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, further comprising a sterilizer unit for inhibiting microbial growth in the liquid.
14. (original) The filtration system of claim 13, wherein the sterilizer unit is an ultra-violet sterilizer.
15. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, further comprising an auto-shut off float switch for controlling the pump.
16. (original) The filtration system of claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises a material capable of providing fragrance.
17. (currently amended) A waste containment system comprising:
 - an animal support means;
 - a generally horizontal receptacle including an edge and defining a cavity configured to permit passage therethrough of a liquid and the waste from an animal engaged with the animal support means, the receptacle configured to receive the liquid and waste into the cavity and to discharge over the edge the liquid and the waste from the cavity;
 - a filtration unit associated with the receptacle for receiving the liquid and waste from the cavity and for filtering the waste from the liquid; and
 - a pump for delivering the liquid from the filtration unit back to the receptacle to permit circulation of the liquid.
18. (original) The waste containment system of claim 17, further comprising a hopper associated with the receptacle and configured to permit draining of the liquid.
19. (original) The waste containment system of claim 17, further comprising a sterilizer unit for inhibiting microbial growth in the liquid.
20. (original) The waste containment system of claim 19, wherein the sterilizer unit is an ultra-violet sterilizer.
21. (original) The waste containment system of claim 17, further comprising an auto-shut off float switch for controlling the pump.
22. (original) The waste containment system of claim 17, wherein the liquid is water.
23. (original) The waste containment system of claim 17, wherein the animal support means is selected from the group consisting of bird stands, food cups, perches, ladders, swings, toys, and supports.

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24. (currently amended) A method of filtering waste from an animal engaged with an animal support means, the method comprising the steps:
- (a) providing a body of liquid that flows a generally horizontal receptacle including an edge and defining a cavity configured to permit passage therethrough of the liquid and the waste, the receptacle configured to receive the liquid and waste into the cavity and to discharge over the edge the liquid and the waste from the cavity;
 - (b) filtering the waste from the liquid by a filtration unit; and
 - (c) circulating the liquid from the filtration unit to the receptacle with a pump.
25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the animal support means is selected from the group consisting of bird stands, food cups, perches, ladders, swings, toys, and supports.
26. (original) The method of claim 24 further comprising providing sterilization to the liquid.
27. (original) The method of claim 24 further comprising providing an automatic shut-off control for the pump.
28. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the enclosure is a bird cage.
29. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the liquid is water.
30. (currently amended) A waste containment system comprising:
- an animal support means;
 - a generally horizontal receptacle including an edge and defining a cavity configured to permit passage therethrough of a liquid and waste from an animal engaged with the animal support means, the receptacle configured to receive the liquid into the cavity and to discharge over the edge the liquid and the waste from the cavity;
 - a hopper associated with the receptacle and configured to permit draining of the liquid from the receptacle;
 - a filtration unit associated with the hopper for filtering the waste from the liquid;
 - a pump for circulating the liquid from the filtration unit back to the receptacle to permit circulation of the liquid;
 - a sterilizer unit for inhibiting microbial growth in the liquid; and
 - an auto-shut off float switch for controlling the pump.